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SOURCE: FBIB (This strictly factual report is based on monitored foreign radio broadcasts received in Washington up to 9 a.m., 8 June 1949. It reproduces a report prepared in response to a special request.)

INTRODUCTION: During the past five days, the Soviet, Satellite, and Soviet-controlled German radios have touched only briefly upon the problems uppermost at the CFM sessions during this period--that is, the related problems of Berlin and the veto. The most pointed Soviet commentary on the CFM Conference as a whole has been a 7 June broadcast of a PRAVDA article written by Yuri Zhukov, PRAVDA's Paris correspondent. Zhukov accuses the Western delegations of propagandizing and of attempting to utilize the CFM rostrum "for purposes which have nothing in common with preparations of agreed-upon decisions on the most important international issues." He suggests that "narrow economic issues--and first and foremost, trade between Western and Eastern Germany"--constitute the "real business" that brought the representatives of the Western Powers to the Conference table; to this he associates Walter Lippmann's "alarm (about) the fact that the Western world, including Germany, has almost simultaneously entered a period of slump." Otherwise, the Soviet, Satellite, and Soviet-controlled German radios treat familiar themes in a familiar manner: protests against the Western policy of "dictation"; charges of Western violations of the Potsdam decisions; pleas for German unity; and protests against the Western occupation statute and the Bonn Constitution.

THE "REAL BUSINESS" OF THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS: Zhukov's widely distributed PRAVDA article cites Walter Lippmann in "direct confirmation" of the thesis that the "real business" of the Western delegations consists only of "limited economic questions," including the question of trade between Western and Eastern Germany. Lippmann is said to have "sounded the alarm because the Western world, including Germany, is almost certainly entering a period of recession with shrinking trade and sharpened competition for markets." He is further quoted to the effect that the West-German state will be facing a crisis if it cannot sell its manufactures and that the U.S. also is interested in finding markets for its own exports in the face of the impending slump.

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WESTERN "PROPAGANDA" PRIOR TO COMING TO THE "REAL BUSINESS": "Why did the Western delegations deem it necessary to spend so much time coming to the 'real business?'" asks Zhukov. He answers this question with the charge that "Acheson delivered a number of speeches meant by no means for the hearers around the Rose Palace table but directed over their heads to the readers of U.S. and pro-U.S. papers published in Western Germany." He allegedly wanted to convince the Germans that the Western Powers stood for German unity and German self-government. But "all this heap of flowery verbiage wilted and dried up as soon as the Soviet delegation directed on it the clear spotlight of merciless analysis. Vishinsky demonstrated the insincerity and hypocrisy of those who, while asserting that the Germans must govern themselves, are in fact doing everything they can to deprive the Germans of the possibility to do so."

THE "METHOD OF DICTATION": As has been true of Soviet, Satellite, and Soviet-controlled broadcasts since the Conference began, Zhukov devotes attention to the policy of "Diktat" that is pursued by the Western delegations. Noting Acheson's "demand... for immediate ratification of the Atlantic Pact," the Soviet commentator claims that "it would be naive to suppose that those who put forward their obviously unacceptable proposals, to the accompaniment of talk about the immediate ratification of the Atlantic Pact, expected seriously that they would succeed in imposing these proposals upon the Soviet delegation." (He then reverts to a previous Soviet charge that the Western delegations are only interested in converting Western Germany into a military place d'armes and in preventing German unity. "The maintenance of a dismembered Germany suits them perfectly.")

In conclusion, Zhukov warns: "It is high time that the Anglo-U.S. bloc should understand that the method of 'Diktat' can have no success in dealing with the USSR, whose policy in relations with other countries was and is based on the principle of equal rights and collaboration founded on friendly agreement and mutual understanding." One thing is clear, he says: "The questions on the agenda of the Paris session can be successfully solved if the method of the 'Diktat' is left outside the door... and if all participants in the Conference prove by acts their positive attitude towards international collaboration, the classical examples of which were given at the historic conferences in Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam."

WEST MAKES PROPOSALS WITH THE INTENTION OF BEING REJECTED: Satellite comment adds little of interest to Moscow's output, except for an unusual discrepancy between unqualified denunciation in some quarters and qualified approval of the Western delegations in other quarters. Budapest makes the flat statement that the Western proposals were presented with the deliberate intention of being flatly rejected by the USSR. On the other hand, Prague says that "the whole atmosphere in which the talks are taking place indicates that all the parties to these negotiations are trying hard to achieve at least a partial success."

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